

Listing of Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A wheel assembly comprising:
a rim for a tire;
a hub comprising a central portion and a connecting portion radiating from the central portion to the rim, wherein the central portion is provided with a plurality of lug holes through which lug studs pass when a rear side of the central portion is mounted against an axle hub of a motor vehicle; and
a functioning clock removably mounted to a front side of the connecting portion of the hub so as to conceal lug nuts tightened down on the lug studs from view when the wheel assembly is viewed from a front plan perspective;
wherein at least a face portion of the functioning clock does not rotate with the hub
when the rear side of the central portion of the hub is mounted against an axel hub of a
motor vehicle and the hub is rotating.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The wheel assembly according to claim 2 1
wherein the functioning clock further comprises a bezel portion that frames the face portion, and a transparent or translucent crystal portion that contacts the bezel portion and covers and protects the face portion.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The wheel assembly according to claim 2 1
wherein the face portion of the functioning clock comprises an analog clock having an hour hand and a minute hand.

Claim 5 (original): The wheel assembly according to claim 4 wherein the hour hand and minute hand are formed on the face portion by an electroluminescent display.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (original): The wheel assembly according to claim 1 wherein the hub and rim are integrally formed of metal.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The wheel assembly according to claim 2 1 further comprising a light source for illuminating the face portion of the functioning clock and a power source for providing power to the light source.

Claim 9 (original): The wheel assembly according to claim 8 further comprising a controller for switching power on and off from the power source to the light source.

Claims 10-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The wheel assembly according to claim 9 further comprising a receiver for receiving a transmitted time signal, and wherein the controller adjusts the time displayed by the functioning clock to match the transmitted time signal received by the receiver.

Claim 14 (original): The wheel assembly according to claim 1 wherein the connecting portion of the hub comprises a bracket portion for removably mounting the functional clock to the hub.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The wheel assembly according to claim 14 wherein the bracket portion is adapted to receive any one of a plurality of interchangeable functional clocks that have a different appearance.

Claim 16 (original): The wheel assembly according to claim 3 wherein the face portion of the functioning clock is encased within a substantially watertight sealed compartment defined by the bezel portion, the crystal portion and a back case portion connected to the bezel portion.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A wheel assembly comprising:
a rim for a tire;
a hub comprising a central portion and a connecting portion radiating from the central portion to the rim, wherein the central portion is provided with a plurality of lug holes through which lug studs pass when a rear side of the central portion is mounted against an axle hub of a motor vehicle; and
a functioning clock removably mounted to a front side of the connecting portion of the hub so as to conceal lug nuts tightened down on the lug studs from view;
wherein the orientation of at least a face portion of the functioning clock does not appear to substantially change when the central portion of the hub of the wheel assembly is mounted against the axle hub of a motor vehicle that is in motion and the hub is rotating;
wherein the functioning clock further comprises a bezel portion that frames the face portion, and a transparent or translucent crystal portion that contacts the bezel portion and covers and protects the face portion;
wherein the face portion of the functioning clock is encased within a substantially watertight sealed compartment defined by the bezel portion, the crystal portion and a back case portion connected to the bezel portion; and
wherein the bezel portion is mounted to the connecting portion of the hub and the face portion is provided with a plurality of roller bearings configured to contact an inner annual annular bearing surface formed in the the back case portion, and wherein the inner annular bearing surface thereby supports the face portion of the functioning clock.

Claim 18 (original): The wheel assembly according to claim 17 wherein a bottom hemisphere of the face portion is heavier than a top hemisphere of the face portion, the difference in weight being sufficient to maintain the vertical orientation of the face portion notwithstanding rotation of the hub.

Claim 19 (original): The wheel assembly according to claim 1 wherein the connecting portion of the hub comprises a plurality of spokes that are spaced apart a predetermined distance such that when the connecting portion of the hub rotates at a substantially constant predetermined speed, an optical illusion is created whereby the plurality of spokes appear to a human observer to make about one clockwise revolution around the bezel portion of the functioning clock per minute.

Claim 20 (canceled).